CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method of squeezing slabs empty, a slab being a block of allocated memory space, the method comprising the steps of:

determining whether a slab is to be squeezed empty; and

precluding, if the slab is to be squeezed empty, data from being placed in any unused space of the slab.

2. The method of Claim 1 wherein data is precluded from being placed in any space in the slab that becomes unused anytime thereafter.

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein the slab is de-allocated when the slab becomes empty.

4. The method of Claim 3 wherein precluding data from being placed in an unused space of the slab includes disclaiming the unused space.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein a collection of slabs is a pile, the pile having a maximum amount of allowable memory space that can be allocated thereto.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein if an application reduces the maximum amount of allowable memory space of a pile and the current amount of memory space exceeds the

reduced maximum, at least one of the slabs in the pile is targeted to be squeezed empty.

7. The method of Claim 6 wherein if the program requests advice as to which area of the allocated slab to be de-allocated, the advice is returned to the program.

8. A computer program product on a computer readable medium for squeezing slabs empty, a slab being a block of allocated memory space, the computer program product comprising:

code means for determining whether a slab is to be squeezed empty; and

code means for precluding, if the slab is to be squeezed empty, data from being placed in any unused space of the slab.

9. The computer program product of Claim 8 wherein data is precluded from being placed in any space in the slab that becomes unused anytime thereafter.

10. The computer program product of Claim 9 wherein the slab is de-allocated when the slab becomes empty.

11. The computer program product of Claim 10 wherein precluding data from being placed in an unused space of the slab includes disclaiming the unused space.

12. The computer program product of Claim 11 wherein a collection of slabs is a pile, the pile having a

maximum amount of allowable memory space that can be allocated thereto.

13. The computer program product of Claim 12 wherein if an application reduces the maximum amount of allowable memory space of a pile and the current amount of memory space exceeds the reduced maximum, at least one of the slabs in the pile is targeted to be squeezed empty.

14. The computer program product of Claim 13 wherein if the program requests advice as to which area of the allocated slab to be de-allocated, the advice is returned to the program.

15. A system for squeezing slabs empty, a slab being a block of allocated memory space, the system comprising:

at least one storage device for storing code data; and

at least one processor for processing the code data to determine whether a slab is to be squeezed empty, and to preclude, if the slab is to be squeezed empty, data from being placed in any unused space of the slab.

16. The system of Claim 15 wherein data is precluded from being placed in any space in the slab that becomes unused anytime thereafter.

17. The system of Claim 16 wherein the slab is de-allocated when the slab becomes empty.

18. The system of Claim 17 wherein precluding data from being placed in an unused space of the slab includes disclaiming the unused space.

19. The system of Claim 18 wherein a collection of slabs is a pile, the pile having a maximum amount of allowable memory space that can be allocated thereto.

20. The system of Claim 19 wherein if an application reduces the maximum amount of allowable memory space of a pile and the current amount of memory space exceeds the reduced maximum, at least one of the slabs in the pile is targeted to be squeezed empty.

21. The system of Claim 20 wherein if the program requests advice as to which area of the allocated slab to be de-allocated, the advice is returned to the program.